



## Chapter 1

# Community and Technical College System Enrollment Highlights

WASHINGTON'S COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGE ACT OF 1991 provides for a state system of community and technical colleges separate from both the public secondary schools and four-year institutions. The act requires that the colleges "offer an open door to every citizen, regardless of his or her academic background or experience, at a cost normally within his or her economic means" (RCW 28B.50.020[1]).

Each college district is required to "offer thoroughly comprehensive educational, training and service programs to meet the needs of both the communities and students served by combining, with equal emphasis, high standards of excellence in academic transfer courses; realistic and practical courses in occupational education, both graded and un-graded; community services of an educational, cultural and recreational nature; and adult education" (RCW 28B.50.020[2]). Technical colleges are exempt from the academic transfer requirement.

### Access and Participation Rates

In fall 2000, the college system served 182,343 unduplicated headcount enrollments in the state funded courses for a full-time equivalent (FTE) count of 118,772 students. For the full year 2000-01, colleges served 202,646 headcount enrollments, or 128,294 FTEs (see Table 1). The figures include technical colleges. Prior to 1993, technical college enrollments were excluded from the data collection.

State funded courses include those supported by General Fund-State dollars as well as natural resource waivers (500 funded), worker retraining (6,200 funded), and excess enrollments. Excess enrollments are students served by colleges over and above the regular state allocation.

Economic and labor market growth and contraction varies by region and county. Average participation in the system is about four students for every 100 adults in the state. Lower rates tend to be in remote counties without a main campus. Higher rates tend to be in counties with main campuses.

### Student Characteristics

The racial composition of the student population in fall 2000 was more diverse than that of the state as a whole; 26 percent of students at community and technical colleges were racial or ethnic minorities,<sup>1</sup> compared to 17 percent of the general population. The student population was 57 percent female. The median age of students was 27.3, down from 27.5 the year before.

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<sup>1</sup> Black/African American, American Indian, Asian or Pacific Islander, or Hispanic Origin.

## Off-Campus Programs

The 34 community and technical colleges provide facilities for academic instruction, workforce training, developmental education,<sup>2</sup> adult basic education, and English as a second language. The system, through off-campus programs, targets education and training opportunities for people that have limited access to college facilities. Broadening the scope of instructional programs available through off-campus classrooms is just one way colleges are improving educational access and availability. Distance learning, providing student access without a main or branch campus, accounted for 5,641 FTEs in fall 2000.

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<sup>2</sup> Developmental education classes are those offered in basic subjects (i.e., math, English, basic skills), which prepare students for college-level work.

Table 1  
**Community and Technical College System**  
**Annual Average and Fall Headcount Enrollment and FTEs**  
**1970-71 through 2000-01**

State-Funded Enrollment Only, Includes Technical Colleges  
 Since 1993-94

	Annual Average		Fall Quarter	
	Headcount	FTEs	Headcount	FTEs
1970-71	101,357 <sup>1</sup>	57,673	108,679 <sup>1</sup>	60,472
1971-72	111,265 <sup>2</sup>	66,175	104,454 <sup>2</sup>	66,895
1972-73	124,831 <sup>2</sup>	69,873	118,647 <sup>2</sup>	68,514
1973-74	140,872 <sup>2</sup>	74,062	133,835 <sup>2</sup>	73,397
1974-75	152,961 <sup>2</sup>	81,417	141,414 <sup>2</sup>	77,628
1975-76	157,710 <sup>2</sup>	86,772	151,644 <sup>2</sup>	85,397
1976-77	154,905	83,290	140,824	79,849
1977-78	167,897	85,666	154,892	83,288
1978-79	181,158	88,192	167,628	85,498
1979-80	201,940	97,848	191,529	93,417
1980-81	191,029	100,357	184,391	97,168
1981-82	148,391	86,101	138,955	83,030
1982-83	131,009	82,109	123,776	79,978
1983-84	133,747	82,317	125,520	79,666
1984-85	137,954	83,225	129,861	80,904
1985-86	136,606	83,556	130,498	81,901
1986-87	139,353	84,406	134,522	83,659
1987-88	139,825	84,304	132,838	82,244
1988-89	140,863	84,392	135,012	83,481
1989-90	142,214	85,896	134,775	84,148
1990-91	141,911	86,015	134,779	84,276
1991-92 <sup>3</sup>	141,472	89,787	135,082	88,728
1992-93 <sup>3</sup>	141,658	91,490	138,333	91,373
1993-94 <sup>4</sup>	184,574 (31,943) <sup>5</sup>	111,035 (12,483)	175,445 (27,362)	108,373 (11,390)
1994-95 <sup>4</sup>	186,055 (30,524)	113,404 (11,492)	172,558 (25,074)	108,981 (10,301)
1995-96 <sup>4</sup>	186,475 (28,861)	118,075 (14,104)	169,290 (24,926)	111,303 (12,464)
1996-97 <sup>4</sup>	187,774 (29,430)	118,515 (14,332)	172,643 (26,410)	112,646 (13,291)
1997-98 <sup>6</sup>	188,011 (28,776)	117,925 (13,596)	171,722 (24,742)	111,990 (12,281)
1998-99 <sup>6</sup>	196,552 (31,672)	121,301 (14,578)	177,736 (27,803)	113,730 (13,276)
1999-00 <sup>6</sup>	200,279 (30,351)	125,132 (15,159)	182,364 (27,679)	117,520 (13,612)
2000-01 <sup>6</sup>	202,646 (29,393)	128,094 (15,367)	182,343 (25,506)	118,772 (13,619)

NOTES:

<sup>1</sup>All-funding sources, state-funded headcount was not available.

<sup>2</sup>State-funded and contract; state-funded headcount was not available.

<sup>3</sup>Includes Timber Worker Displacement (TW) enrollment.

<sup>4</sup>Includes Timber Worker Displacement (TW), Workforce Training (WFT), and Technical College (TC) enrollments.

<sup>5</sup>Figures in parentheses are Technical College (TC) enrollment without Timber Worker Displacement (TW) or Workforce Training (WFT) enrolled in TCs. TC enrollments are excluded prior to 1993.

<sup>6</sup>Includes TW, WFT, TC, and Private Career Colleges (PCC).

SOURCE: Management Information System (MIS) Report.

Table 2  
**Participation Rates of Public Two-Year Community  
 And Technical Colleges by County For Students  
 Applying From Within the State Fall 2000**

County	17+ WA Pop. 2000	Fall 2000 Enr.	Part. Rate	County	17+ WA Pop. 2000	Fall 2000 Enr.	Part. Rate	Rank
Adams	11,113	372	3.35	Ferry	5,448	364	6.68	1
Asotin	15,615	443	2.84	Walla Walla	42,594	2,518	5.91	2
Benton	102,453	4,142	4.04	* Lewis	51,506	2,771	5.38	3
Chelan	49,018	1,598	3.26	* Whatcom	129,356	6,806	5.26	4
* Clallam	51,255	2,094	4.09	Franklin	33,172	1,719	5.18	5
* Clark	251,228	8,088	3.22	Columbia	3,150	161	5.11	6
Columbia	3,150	161	5.11	* Grays Harbor	50,972	2,387	4.68	7
* Cowlitz	69,408	3,223	4.64	* Cowlitz	69,408	3,223	4.64	8
Douglas	23,520	804	3.42	Spokane	317,017	13,679	4.31	9
Ferry	5,448	364	6.68	* Clallam	51,255	2,094	4.09	10
Franklin	33,172	1,719	5.18	Garfield	1,816	74	4.07	11
Garfield	1,816	74	4.07	* Snohomish	448,524	18,136	4.04	12
Grant	52,068	1,771	3.40	Benton	102,453	4,142	4.04	13
* Grays Harbor	50,972	2,387	4.68	* Skagit	77,482	3,049	3.94	14
* Island	54,262	1,862	3.43	* Pierce	520,806	20,261	3.89	15
* Jefferson	21,119	608	2.88	* King	1,368,040	52,929	3.87	16
* King	1,368,040	52,929	3.87	* Thurston	158,009	6,060	3.84	17
* Kitsap	173,339	5,172	2.98	Pend Oreille	8,824	306	3.47	18
Kittitas	27,151	368	1.36	* Island	54,262	1,862	3.43	19
Klickitat	14,263	151	1.06	Douglas	23,520	804	3.42	20
* Lewis	51,506	2,771	5.38	Grant	52,068	1,771	3.40	21
Lincoln	7,755	172	2.22	Adams	11,113	372	3.35	22
* Mason	38,491	1,077	2.80	* San Juan	11,527	382	3.31	23
Okanogan	29,245	781	2.67	Chelan	49,018	1,598	3.26	24
* Pacific	16,769	430	2.56	* Clark	251,228	8,088	3.22	25
Pend Oreille	8,824	306	3.47	Yakima	155,550	4,756	3.06	26
* Pierce	520,806	20,261	3.89	* Kitsap	173,339	5,172	2.98	27
* San Juan	11,527	382	3.31	* Jefferson	21,119	608	2.88	28
* Skagit	77,482	3,049	3.94	Asotin	15,615	443	2.84	29
* Skamania	7,400	83	1.12	* Mason	38,491	1,077	2.80	30
* Snohomish	448,524	18,136	4.04	Okanogan	29,245	781	2.67	31
Spokane	317,017	13,679	4.31	* Pacific	16,769	430	2.56	32
Stevens	29,243	629	2.15	* Wahkiakum	2,981	71	2.38	33
* Thurston	158,009	6,060	3.84	Lincoln	7,755	172	2.22	34
* Wahkiakum	2,981	71	2.38	Stevens	29,243	629	2.15	35
Walla Walla	42,594	2,518	5.91	Kittitas	27,151	368	1.36	36
* Whatcom	129,356	6,806	5.26	* Skamania	7,400	83	1.12	37
Whitman	34,385	370	1.08	Whitman	34,385	370	1.08	38
Yakima	155,550	4,756	3.06	Klickitat	14,263	151	1.06	39
WA Total	4,465,872	170,667	3.82	WA Total	4,465,872	170,667	3.82	
Out-of-State		11,676		Out-of-State		11,676		
Grand Total		182,343		Grand Total		182,343		
* West of the Cascades.					3,502,474	106,914	3.05	
East of the Cascades.					1,589,951	63,753	4.01	

SOURCE: Population from OFM. Enr. From fall 2000 MIS (SR3104) and HEER (Table 8) reports.

Figure 1  
**Participation Rates of Public Two-Year Community and Technical College  
 System by County for Enrolled Students  
 Who Applied from Within the State of Washington, Fall 1998**



